

Date: Tue, 9 Feb 93 10:55:05 PST
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V93 #190
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest Tue, 9 Feb 93 Volume 93 : Issue 190

Today's Topics:

 4N4 on 160m
 Beware the Jabbawock and VEC
 Cancer, Hams , Proof, Danger re RF RADIATION
 Cheap stereo headphones (2 msgs)
 e: Help CW practice
 Help! Need opinions on IC-2SRA handheld
 IC-471H vs IC-475H ?
 JPS NIR-10 DSP Unit - Opinions sought (2 msgs)
 License Upgrade Strategy
 Looking for No code exam locations
 More on No-Code -- Will this never cease?
 No code exam sites info wanted. (2 msgs)
 Quote EMF-Cancer research
 Radio usage :-)
 Real Hams Pass British Exams?
 RF exposure

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: Mon, 8 Feb 1993 21:38:51 GMT
From: elroy.jpl.nasa.gov!usc!cs.utexas.edu!qt.cs.utexas.edu!yale.edu!ira.uka.de!
sol.ctr.columbia.edu!eff!world!sharon@ames.arpa
Subject: 4N4 on 160m
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Although their club station has been almost totally destroyed in

the shelling of Sarajevo, some members of YU4EXA hope to be active in the upcoming 160m DX contest, using their usual contest call sign, YZ4Z.

Of course, this will depend on the situation in the city at the time.

YZ4Z has had a U.S. manager, but I am not aware that they will be able to get their log information out until after the war (and let's all hope that the fighting ends VERY, VERY SOON).

73,
Sharon KC1YR

--
Sharon Machlis Gartenberg
Framingham, MA USA
e-mail: sharon@world.std.com

Date: Tue, 9 Feb 1993 17:56:22 GMT
From: news.service.uci.edu!ttinews!harley!paulb@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Beware the Jabbawock and VEC
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

It is 10 O'Clock -- Do You Know Where Your License Is?

On November 14, I passed the code portion of my General, completing my license requirements. A week later (11/21), I passed the Advanced test. I attached my Tech license and all of the certificates showing that my General was passed, but not yet received. I marked the "license pending" portion of Form 610 stating this condition. The VE's congratulated me and said that I should receive my license in 6-8 weeks.

In mid January, I got my General certificate. I figured that my Advanced should be about a week behind. Several weeks went by and nothing. So, I called one of the VE's. He told me to check with the VEC and gave me his phone #.

The VEC said that he was holding on to my Advanced application, waiting for me to send him a copy of my General license. "What?", I said. No one told me that. I have been patiently waiting for something that wasn't going to come. Then he told me that I should know that because all Hams know it. He claimed that it was in the ARRL study guides, the FCC rules, on a lot of handouts, in all the magazines and as a HAM, I

am responsible for knowing the rules. I was incredulous! I had read the study guides including the FCC rule book and had never heard of such a thing. I did not want to argue too much with him because that was the possibility that I overlooked it and he had the ability to delay my license even further. So, I told him that I'd mail it to him and suggested that he ask the VEs to mention it to people in the future.

After our conversation, I went over the ARRL study guides and the ARRL FCC Rule book and could find no reference to the VEC holding up someone's application when another license was pending. So, it was either some procedure that only VECs know or something he invented. If the latter, he is guilty of not forwarding my Form 610 to the FCC within 10 days.

BTW, he mentioned that he had 100 applications in his pending file. I wonder whether 100 other hams are wondering where their licenses are.

I couldn't have gotten a parity error. I don't even own a parrot.

Paul Blumstein, paulb@harley.tti.com, DoD #36, ABATE, AMA, HOG, KD6LAA
Transaction Technology, Inc., Santa Monica, CA

Date: Mon, 8 Feb 1993 20:59:57 GMT
From: elroy.jpl.nasa.gov!sdd.hp.com!hpscit.sc.hp.com!hplextra!hpl-opus!hpnmdla!
alanb@ames.arpa
Subject: Cancer, Hams , Proof, Danger re RF RADIATION
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In rec.radio.amateur.misc, aa367@Freenet.carleton.ca (Roger Townsend) writes:
...

>While we were at a radio conference sharing a hotel room I noticed
>a gigantic scar on the side of his neck and he told me how
>in his younger days his work required him to live in a location
>some distance away but in the line of a air radar station and he
>knew the amount of radiation was high but they did not know the
>hazards at that time.

You can always find anecdotal evidence to suggest any conclusion.
(I bet there are lots of hams on the net who could talk about their
high RF exposures with no resulting cancer.) The only way to be sure
if there is a correlation is with carefully-designed studies. And
even then, the results are often inconclusive.

>... Personnally I have seen
>5 watts on 470 Mhz cause eye soreness and vomiting after an

>experimenter who did not believe the dangers stand in front of
>a 4 meter dish at 300 feet measuring the radiation with a \$5
>Tandy multi meter... the needle went hard over ...

Standing in front of a dish is a bad idea as the dish can concentrate the RF energy far more than a whip antenna. (Although 300 feet away sounds like a safe distance with 5 watts.)

>Perhaps others will have stories to tell How about some of
>the older hams during WW2 who saw radiation sickness from RF

"Radiation sickness" generally refers to ionizing radiation, not RF.
But certainly high RF levels can cause adverse effects due to heating.

AL N1AL

Date: Tue, 9 Feb 1993 06:07:57 GMT
From: mvb.saic.com!unogate!news.service.uci.edu!usc!howland.reston.ans.net!
bogus.sura.net!darwin.sura.net!haven.umd.edu!wam.umd.edu!adam@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Cheap stereo headphones
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I forgot to mention:

They're good for when we have talk show guests. At \$1.00 each (our station's funding is lacking like any other station) even I can afford to get my guests their own headphones to take with them if I want! (Just like an airplane?)

All I had to do in order to plug them into our board was get a little 1/8 to 1/4 adaptor and voila...it's really great to have them and they really do sound as good as anything else.

--Adam L. Greenberg
aka Campus Celebrity Gary Allen
The Most Music, WMUC

Date: Tue, 9 Feb 1993 06:02:07 GMT
From: mvb.saic.com!unogate!news.service.uci.edu!usc!howland.reston.ans.net!
bogus.sura.net!darwin.sura.net!haven.umd.edu!wam.umd.edu!adam@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Cheap stereo headphones
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <9302082200.AA01322@netmail.microsoft.com> a-kevinp@microsoft.COM
(Kevin Purcell, Rho) writes:

>
>So check out any "ultra" cheap stores -- you don't know what you might find!
>

Yeah, I found some that are identical to the Radio Shack \$5.99 ones, and the freq. response is 20-20,000 Hz. Now, maybe it's me, but I swear that these things sound just as good as the \$100+ models I see people using... and they're lighter and more comfortable. In fact, I use them when I'm on the air doing my afternoon show! Much better than anything else I've used to listen to myself...and they're only \$1.00!

Date: 9 Feb 93 18:17:00 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: e: Help CW practice
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Relax -- you seem to be "dit counting" that is interpreting the characters using a "lookup table" (ah, didah that's an A and I'll write it down, rather than unconsciously hearing it, ah an 'A'). This leads to the 10wpm "plateau". Not a true plateau but it requires a different way of by passing the code.

With this method of listening to the code you're struggling to interpret each character as it before the next one arrives. You find you're building tension with each letter your just decoding (like a coiled spring). Then you get an E which is a fast letter and the next letter is upon you. You're interpretation speed can't follow the instantaneous speed ups associated with short letters and you complete the letter before the E your struggling to write down the E and you've missed the next letter. Then you worry about that and you miss the next letter. And it all unravels.

One thing you can do is relax -- try to be as relaxed as possible when taking the code. Keep your practices sessions short (10 to 20mins) and try two or more times a day. Practices only when "fresh".

If you do miss an letter do your best to forget about it (this is a lot easier said than done but can be done with practice) and try the next letter.

Practice text with 50% or more E's mixed with the other letters -- at first you'll miss stuff but don't worry copy what you can.

Listen to code significantly faster than you can copy (if you can copy it 80 or 90% its too slow to learn from). Then see how long a string you can copy. If you miss letter then well its too quick anyhow (so you

don't worry) but try to resync as fast as possible. You miss a letter, leave a space and listen for the next one.

Another solution (if your software can do it) is to send a burst of characters rapidly with longer gaps between the groups.

Another technique is to try to copy behind. Again this initially takes a lot of effort, but I've found it to be useful because your thinking about putting the letter on the paper not what the next letter is.

Listen on the air. There is nothing more fun than copying Morse from a person with real information content. It makes it seem all worthwhile.

Keep at it!

72/73 Kevin, N7WIM / G8UDP
a-kevinp@microsoft.com

Date: 9 Feb 93 07:29:07 GMT
From: ogicse!uwm.edu!spool.mu.edu!news.cs.indiana.edu!
chang%cs.indiana.edu@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Help! Need opinions on IC-2SRA handheld
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I'm planning to buy my first rig, a handheld dual band within \$500. "IC-2SRA" is the one I like to consider, especially the wide receiving range from 50 MHz to 905 MHz is really attractive. But I believe there must be some trade-off for this feature. If you have experience using it or know anybody who has used it before, please give me some advice on it. If it's really good, I'll go for it, else I might consider ST-580 which has been talked a lot on the net positively. by the way, is full duplex feature, receive and transmit at the same time on different channel supported on this model too ? Thanks in advance!

Paul

Date: Tue, 9 Feb 93 02:39:00 GMT
From: pacbell.com!amdahl!netcomsv!netcomsv!weitek!johnm@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: IC-471H vs IC-475H ?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I am looking for a used Icom 440 multimode that can be computer controlled. I presume that the 471H is the predecessor to the current 475H. Could someone

describe the major differences between the two ? I know the computer interface is the older version which has levels which can be converted to current using an icom box. Is it otherwise software-wise the same ? Thanks for any info.

John Mcleod N6RCD.

Date: 9 Feb 1993 05:55:01 GMT
From: elroy.jpl.nasa.gov!usc!cs.utexas.edu!qt.cs.utexas.edu!news.Brown.EDU!
noc.near.net!bigboote.WPI.EDU!wpi.WPI.EDU!gkd@ames.arpa
Subject: JPS NIR-10 DSP Unit - Opinions sought
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I have read some good reviews of the JPS NIR-10 DSP Unit, and have been thinking about using one with my ICOM R71A HF receiver to try to alleviate electrical buzzing, impulse & computer noise when listening to SSB and shortwave broadcast transmissions. Can anyone who has experience with the JPS unit comment on it's effectiveness with this sort of thing, especially in comparison to other DSP devices available.

Greg

Date: 9 Feb 93 13:55:54 GMT
From: panix!schuster@nyu.arpa
Subject: JPS NIR-10 DSP Unit - Opinions sought
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1l7gv1\$e9i@bigboote.WPI.EDU> gkd@wpi.WPI.EDU (Gregory K Doerschler) writes:

>I have read some good reviews of the JPS NIR-10 DSP Unit, and have
>been thinking about using one with my ICOM R71A HF receiver to try
>to alleviate electrical buzzing, impulse & computer noise when
>listening to SSB and shortwave broadcast transmissions. Can anyone
>who has experience with the JPS unit comment on it's effectiveness
>with this sort of thing, especially in comparison to other DSP
>devices available.

Saw some messages on GENie about this, from an owner having a prior rev of this thing (older firmware). He says it takes a lot of tweaking but it does work, and when properly set the voice emerges from the background noise with an almost magical starkness. The noise is transformed into a sort of unobtrusive digital hiss.

The older model was a real noise generator however, and so was only useful for playback of recorded sessions while the DSP unit was off. This may have been remedied since then, it's worth calling JPS.

--

-----Mike Schuster-----
NY Pub. Access UNIX/Internet: schuster@panix.com | 70346.1745@CompuServe.COM
The Portal (R) System: schuster@shell.portal.com | MCI Mail,GEIE: MSCHUSTER

Date: 9 Feb 93 16:16:27 GMT
From: ogicse!emory!gatech!udel!gvls1!gvlf9-q!rossi@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: License Upgrade Strategy
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

For whatever it's worth, my cousin is following what I thought of as a slightly unusual/novel license upgrade strategy. Thought I would share it with the net in case it helps someone.

He upgraded to General last fall. Three months later he upgraded to Advanced. While he was on a roll studying Advanced theory, he continued studying and passed his Extra theory only a month later!

Now he has 1 year to get his code speed up to 20 WPM or else he will have to re-take the Extra theory. This gives him that little extra incentive to keep working at his code.

So, in summary, all of you Generals who are studying for Advanced, try going for the Extra theory at the same time as your Advanced theory ... or shortly after, while it is still fresh.

Then all you need is the 20 WPM code and you are done!

And, remember, when you go to take that 20 WPM test you won't have to worry about any theory cluttering your mind so you can concentrate on the code test only ... and hopefully walk out an EXTRA !

=====
Pete Rossi - WA3NNA ross@VFL.Paramax.COM

Paramax Systems Corporation - a Unisys Company
Valley Forge Engineering Center - Paoli, Pennsylvania
=====

Date: Mon, 8 Feb 1993 00:48:09 GMT
From: zaphod.mps.ohio-state.edu!howland.reston.ans.net!bogus.sura.net!
darwin.sura.net!gatech!destroyer!news.iastate.edu!hobbes.physics.uiowa.edu!
news.uiowa.edu!herky.cs.@saimiri.primate.wisc.edu
Subject: Looking for No code exam locations
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Hi

I am looking for information about No code exams in my area.
I am located in Iowa City Iowa.

Napoleon

mau@herky.cs.uiowa.edu

Date: Mon, 8 Feb 93 21:00:17 GMT
From: dog.ee.lbl.gov!overload.lbl.gov!agate!usenet.ins.cwru.edu!
howland.reston.ans.net!usc!cs.utexas.edu!gerald.cc.utexas.edu!slcs.slb.com!
leo.asc.slb.com!sjsca4!jones@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: More on No-Code -- Will this never cease?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Ed Hare - KA1CV (ehare@arrl.org) wrote:
[some deleted]

:
: >With the dropping of Morse by the Coast Guard in compliance with
: >international maritime regulations, we've seen the passing of the last
: >vestige of Morse everywhere but in ham licensing.
:
: It is still used in the Aeronautical services for RDF beacons, and

Just for the record, all of the Aeronautical charts that I've seen have
the beacons marked with the "dot-dash pattern" beside them. It wasn't
until I learned Morse code that I realized how they picked the pattern! ;-)
(No, you don't need to know Morse code to fly IFR... just current charts.)

--
Disclaimer: The opinions expressed above are mine and not those of Schlumberger
because they are NOT covered by the patent agreement!

Phone: (602) 345-3638 RF: N7RPQ
Snail: Clark Jones, Schlumberger Technologies, 7855 S. River Pkwy #116, Tempe,
AZ 85284-1825

Date: Sat, 6 Feb 1993 22:44:53 GMT
From: zaphod.mps.ohio-state.edu!howland.reston.ans.net!usc!sol.ctr.columbia.edu!
destroyer!news.iastate.edu!hobbes.physics.uiowa.edu!news.uiowa.edu!
herky.cs.uiowa.edu!mau@saimiri.primate.wisc.edu
Subject: No code exam sites info wanted.
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Hi

I am looking for information about No code exams in my area.
I am located in Iowa City Iowa.

Napoleon

mau@herky.cs.uiowa.edu

Date: Sat, 6 Feb 1993 22:44:53 GMT
From: zaphod.mps.ohio-state.edu!howland.reston.ans.net!usc!sol.ctr.columbia.edu!
destroyer!news.iastate.edu!hobbes.physics.uiowa.edu!news.uiowa.edu!
herky.cs.uiowa.edu!mau@saimiri.primate.wisc.edu
Subject: No code exam sites info wanted.
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Hi

I am looking for information about No code exams in my area.
I am located in Iowa City Iowa.

Napoleon

mau@herky.cs.uiowa.edu

Date: Mon, 8 Feb 1993 20:44:23 GMT
From: elroy.jpl.nasa.gov!sdd.hp.com!hpscit.sc.hp.com!hplextra!hpl-opus!hpnmdla!
alanb@ames.arpa
Subject: Quote EMF-Cancer research
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In rec.radio.amateur.misc, root@jackatak.raider.NET (Jack GF Hill - Sysop [HOME])
writes:

><In Info-Hams V93 #168, N1AL (Al) writes >

```

>>> Not to mention that there may be other factors influencing leukemia
>>> near power lines, such as the use of pesticides to keep down weeds in the
>>> power company right-of-way, exhaust fumes (HT lines tend to be near
>>> highways), the lower socioeconomic status of families that live very
>          ^^^^^ ^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^ ^^^^^ ^ ^ ^^^^^^^^^ ^^^^ ^^^^ ^^^^
>>> near power lines, etc.
>    ^^^^ ^^^^^ ^^^^^
>I can't help myself! When my friends, living in the two subdivisions
>bordering the "Hyper-Tension" line that TVA has running between them,
>find out they are of lower socioeconomic status (in their $350,000+
>homes ...

```

I was wondering when someone would object to that! The point is, you need to be very close to the HT lines to have elevated fields. (I doubt that many of the \$350K homes are immediately adjacent to the HT lines.) As soon as you get a couple hundred feet away, the fields have dropped off into the background level.

AL N1AL

Date: 9 Feb 93 16:59:00 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: Radio usage :-)
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

The following was retrieved from a packet bbs:

To: All the media "experts" who have now pronounced
celphones as being politically incorrect

From: Concerned Radio And Phone Operators Logging Airtime

RE: New Radio Dangers Study

The results of a recent study involving the hazards of radio emissions has just been released by an organization calling themselves the Concerned Radio and Phone Operators Logging Airtime (CRAPOLA). "The research effort shows strong evidence that goes some distance toward offsetting the recent allegations that users of celphones and other radios, are risking their health," said Dr. Toro B. Slinger who heads the research arm of the group.

Among the conclusions of the study are the following:

CELPHONE USAGE

Celphones have been in use for roughly seven years. Cancer has been with mankind 7,457 years. That leaves only 7,450 years unaccounted for.

RADIO USAGE - HEALTH ADVANTAGES

While the jury is still out on the use of radio, the following evidence supports its health benefits -

General Custer found that NOT having/using a radio could be damaging to the health.

Amelia Earhart decided the radio antenna caused too much drag to her airplane and cut it off.

Commanders at Pearl Harbor chose to ignore radar reports of incoming planes.

A ship close to the Titanic closed its radio room minutes before the liner sent its distress signals.

Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette might have found radio reports of revolutionary activities useful.

Nathan Hale would likely have preferred to deliver his report via cellphone.

EXTENDED RADIO FREQUENCY EXPOSURE

Longwave and medium wave emissions have been with us for nearly a century. The CRAPOLA founder spent 16 years in the broadcast industry and came to the following conclusions-

Broadcast Engineers show no defineable or repetitive health traits, other than steadily becoming more ornery and critical of music, disc jockeys, news reporters and station management as time goes on. After 45 years on the job, one broadcast engineer says he blames getting old on repeated exposure to RF.

As to the more recent uses of short wave and microwave emissions, the study finds that microwaves can have an adverse affect when repeatedly applied to leftover pizza or a wet cat.

SECONDARY HEALTH HAZARDS

One celphone user cited a need for penicillin after making several calls to a "dating service."

ALTERNATIVES TO RADIO

In light of ongoing health concerns, here is a release of CRAPOLA on communications alternatives:

DRUMS - Advantages: Energy efficient, no antenna needed.
Disadvantages: Short range, difficult to use when driving.

SMOKE SIGNALS - Advantages: Uses renewable fuels.
Disadvantages: Windy days, not practical on space flights.

SEMAPHORE FLAGS - Advantages: U.S. manufacturers could gain the lead in making flags for the world market.
Disadvantages: Shortage of Boy Scouts to operate apparatus.

MAIL SERVICE - Advantages: Renewed interest in U.S. Postal Service. Disadvantage: The U.S. Postal Service.

TELEGRAMS - Advantages: Renewal of dying industry.
Disadvantages: Poor singing and the adage that only bad news arrives via telegram.

MESSENGER - Advantages: None
Disadvantages: It was messengers that wanted the other means invented. Remember what always happened to the messenger who delivered bad news? Talk about health hazards!

Further releases of CRAPOLA on this continuing study will be dispatched in the near future.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mi Fling Pu
Secretary

Date: Tue, 9 Feb 1993 02:13:57 GMT
From: pacbell.com!amdahl!netcomsv!bongo!julian@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Real Hams Pass British Exams?

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <8703@lib.tmc.edu> jmaynard@oac.hsc.uth.tmc.edu (Jay Maynard) writes:
>

>Mike Martin, WA5LNG, wrote an article in QST a couple of years ago about
>getting a British ticket. I can assure you Mike isn't a British subject (he's
>about as good-ol'-boy Texan as they come!), so I guess that rule has changed.

>

>I might go take the test one of these days, if I'm ever over there...

You don't want to go there Jay. They have had an evil no-code
licence since the sixties. They are now totally dissipated and
corrupt.

Plus, they don't have any closed repeaters. So you wouldn't
have any need for your walkie-talkie.

--

Julian Macassey, N6ARE julian@bongo.tele.com Voice: (213) 653-4495
Paper Mail: 742 1/2 North Hayworth Avenue, Hollywood, California 90046-7142

Date: Mon, 8 Feb 1993 20:48:08 GMT
From: mvb.saic.com!unogate!news.service.uci.edu!usc!sdd.hp.com!hpscit.sc.hp.com!
hplextra!hpl-opus!hpnmdla!alanb@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: RF exposure
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In rec.radio.amateur.misc, rerickso@cwis.unomaha.edu (Ronald D. Erickson) writes:

>If one needs to have a handie talkie for communications,
>I wonder how much of an RF problem one would have using
>a metal pith hat, ...

No RF problem, but you might have a legal problem. (Isn't nerdiness
a crime outside of California?)

:=)

AL N1AL

End of Info-Hams Digest V93 #190
